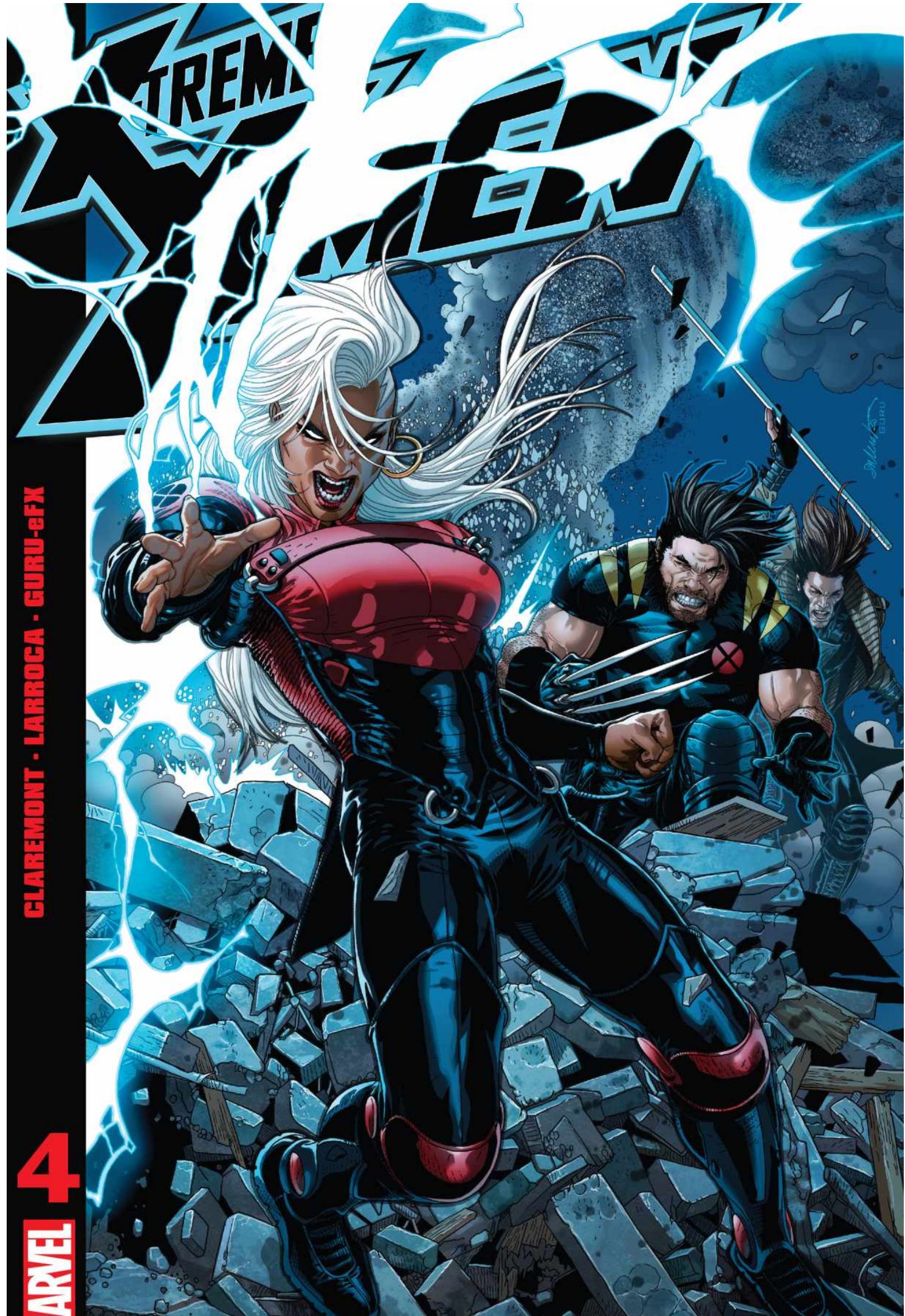


CLAREMONT • LARROCA • GURU-eFX

ARVEL 4



⊙ WASHINGTON
PARK--

hard by the
University of
Chicago...

...a moment
after the end
of last issue.

Her name is Ororo (though
these days, she prefers "Ro").
She leads the X-team.

A minute ago, she was among the most
powerful beings on Earth, whose mutant
powers gave her absolute control over the
weather. Hence, her codename, **Storm**.

Now, thanks to *Gal  r*--
super-powered agents of
the anti-mutant coalition
Purity--she and all the
mutants in Chicago have
lost their powers.

But none of that
matters to 'Ro
right now as she
finds herself
overwhelmed by
a grief more
intense than any
she's ever known.

NO!



Because Kitty Pryde,
the person she cares for
most in all the world, has
just been slain.

ROAR!

'Ro--
get 'hold o'
yo'self.

We fightin'
fo' *survival*
here.

Ah know
this sounds
hard--but
our grief, it
gon' have
'ta wait.

I care
nothing for grief,
Remy--

--I want
vengeance!



X-TREME X-MEN

The X-Treme X-Men have come to Chicago to help their teammate Kitty Pryde, who had just discovered that an adversary she thought long dead -- the legendary ninja-assassin Ogun -- still lives. With his psychic form seeking a new physical host, he can possess anyone to continue his battle against his enemies.

Unfortunately, Ogun isn't the only threat they face. A band of non-mutant super-beings known as **Galérer**, allied with the anti-mutant collective known as **Purity**, to annihilate mutantkind. Among their number, Alice Tremaine and the mini-Sentinel she resurrected, Scrap. The X-Team has split up to try to protect the innocent citizens (including a pair of sisters Rogue and Gambit have taken under their wing) and disarm the threats.

To fulfill his own plan of vengeance, Ogun seized control of Galérer's strongman, Beast-Brute, using his powers to defeat Rachel Summers, the young **Phoenix**. Rachel's power was absorbed by Scrap, who neutralized the enhanced abilities of every mutant in the city!

This included Kitty Pryde, who at that moment was phased through a boulder -- as her friends watched her succumb to this horrific fate!



'RO --
STORM --
their leader



BISHOP



REMY
LeBEAU --
GAMBIT



ROGUE



SAGE



KATHERINE
"KITTY" PRYDE --
SHADOWCAT



RACHEL
SUMMERS --
Kitty's best friend



LOCKHEED --
her very best
[dragon] friend



LOGAN --
WOLVERINE



OGUN --
the villain, their
adversary

"SEARCH AND DESTROY!"

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X-MEN CREATED BY



SLAMMO

Hate
t' interrupt,
chère--

--'specially
when you be havin' so
much fun--

--but
Rogue has a
point.

It's
time t'
go!

What?

Remy?!

Logan?!

Beasty-
Brute--

--what
are you
doing?!

Whose side
are you
on?!

The
winning one, of
course.

What is happening
to your face?

Consider this
the countenance
of victory.

Is that
not what you
desire?

But who
says slaughter
can't be fun?

The
"Wolverine"
has done me harm
and humiliation
to spare.

Past time
I paid him back



His unbreakable adamantium bones make him the ideal sledgehammer.

They will **smash** everything they hit.



Including **him**.



Blah-blah-blah.



WRENCH

Like pretty much every musclehead ah ever fought:



TELL YOU?

Y'all talk way too much.



Say g'night,
Beasty-Brute!

Game
over!



Foolish girl, I am
not who you
think--

SLAP

--and
this so-called
"game" has barely
begun.



Appreciate
the update.

This form
can smash
solid rocks to dust
with a single
blow.



I look
forward to
seeing what
it will do
to *you!*



Shame on
you, that sounds
nasty.

Ever
wonder what'll
happen--

--if ah
hit *you*
first?



Sis, it's snowing!

Who cares?!

Our friends are being killed-- an' there's *nothing* we can do to help!

You would challenge me?



Got nothin' better t' do.

Foolish girl, suit yourself.

Name's *Rogue*, sugah.

An' ah ain't the one bleedin' like a stuck pig.



Tha's it, Remy. You an' 'Ro get Logan clear...



...while ah keep this big guy's attention focused on *me*!



Ain't ever seen anyone as good as him--

--but ah'm no slouch either.

Problem for Ogun is BeastGuy's body's *too* big--



--with too many muscles.

He's got power, ah've got speed--

--an' agility t' spare--

--ah can run rings--



--*/

Foolish novice--for all your courage, for all your vaunted skill--

--when one has the power I possess...

...smashing a mere girl is nothing.

That's not the way Beast-Brute fights--or how he talks.

Right now, *Soulscream*, I do not care.

'Brute, stop playing about!

Finish the

As you command, *Sanzu*.

It will be my pleasure.

Which is the moment Lockheed gets involved.

What happens next occurs in a matter of split seconds.



No time t' talk, chère--

Remy, what--?!



--we gotta go--

--now!



BOOM BOOM



Eight miles north of the University stands one of the tallest buildings in the United States.

In a hidden aerie atop the tower is one of Purity's leaders, grad student Alice Tremaine, and the artificial intelligence mini-Sentinel she calls "Scrap"--

--because scraps are what she used to make her repairs.

What's with the weather?

INCOMPLETE TRANSITION OF MUTANT ENERGY--

--SUBSEQUENT NEUTRALIZATION OF TARGET MUTANT ABILITIES--

--RESULTING IN UNANTICIPATED CONSEQUENCES

But you can fix things, right? We're still going to win this fight.

SELF ABSORBED INSUFFICIENT MUTANT ENERGY TO FULLY ERASE TARGET ENTITIES

ONLY THEIR "POWERS"

UTILIZING COLLOQUIAL VERNACULAR, WHILE SURVIVING ENTITIES REMAIN VULNERABLE, ALL REQUIRE TERMINATION THE "OLD-FASHIONED WAY"

You mean *kill* 'em, right?

That's *Galêrer's* job.

Let's pray they're up to it.

WASHINGTON PARK...



Sis--
I feel so cold!

I know.
Me too, Li'l
Sis. I'm holding
you close as
I can--

--trying my
best to keep us
both warm!



You got
hit pretty good,
girl.

Ah'm
tougher 'n
ah look.

So
am I.

Logan,
you got no
more healin'
factor.

Ogun
can kill you
anytime.

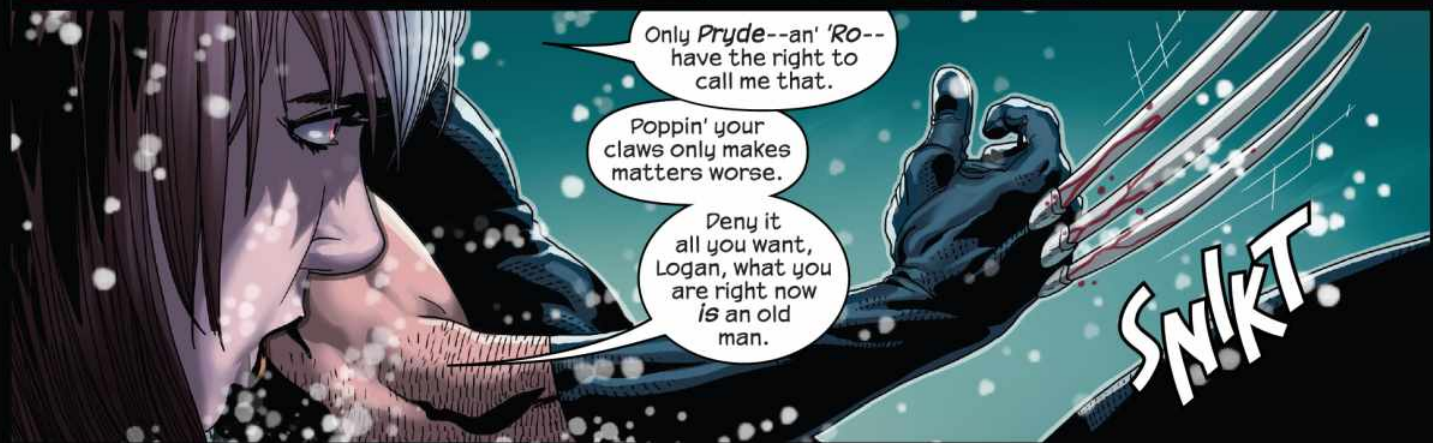


Right now,
he's jus' havin'
fun.

Your body can
barely carry your
adamantium.

You
want I should
quit?

Old
man, I want
you should
live!



Only Pryde--an 'Ro--
have the right to
call me that.

Poppin' your
claws only makes
matters worse.

Deny it
all you want,
Logan, what you
are right now
is an old man.

SNIKT



Who we
need *more*
'n ever.

You don'
start dealin'
with that, like right
now, we're *all*
done.

Mr.
Wolverine!



You two
okay?

Are
you?

Been better,
that's a fact.

But I'll
be fine. We
all will.

I don't
believe
you.



None of us
die today, you
hear me?

We're X-folk. For us,
odds don't matter--
'cause we're gonna
do what we
do best:

Find
a way to
win!

⊙ MEANWHILE,
CLOSE BY...



Wha'chu
playin' at,
'Ro?

I am
not playing,
Remy.

I want
blood for blood,
life for life, in full
measure.

I never
had a reason
to.

Never
heard you talk
like this.

Ah get
it--

--but there be way more
at stake here.

I do not
care. As *you* did
not--

"--when you saw what had been
done to *Marissa DeCastro*."*



*In the recent *Gambit*
miniseries! --Bayou Basso

"Y'all be *right*. Ah
wanted t' drop
everythin' and go
with her--



"--only M'rissa

What she
told me was more
important:

That *you*
needed me, 'Ro,
way more 'n she
did.

Way ah'm
seein' things
now, girl...

she's



Ah get it, 'Ro--y' wan' **vengeance!** 'Y' wan' t' make what killed Kitty **afraid** o' you.

Right b'fore y' **kill** 'em.



Open yo' eyes, woman-- they already there!

They so scared they do **anything**-- commit any horror-- t' wipe us out.



Don' matter, we be "heroes."

Don' matter how many times we saved this world.

They think those stories, they all be **lies!**



Look at this storm--that **you** started, 'Ro--gettin' **worse** wit' ev'ry passin' minute!

It be givin' 'em **reason** t' fear us.

An' the next step past that fear be **hate**.



Why else you think more an' more folks be joinin' **Purity?**

'Ro, we got t' show 'em somethin' **better**.

If we an' everyone else around here



This be the moment, 'Ro.

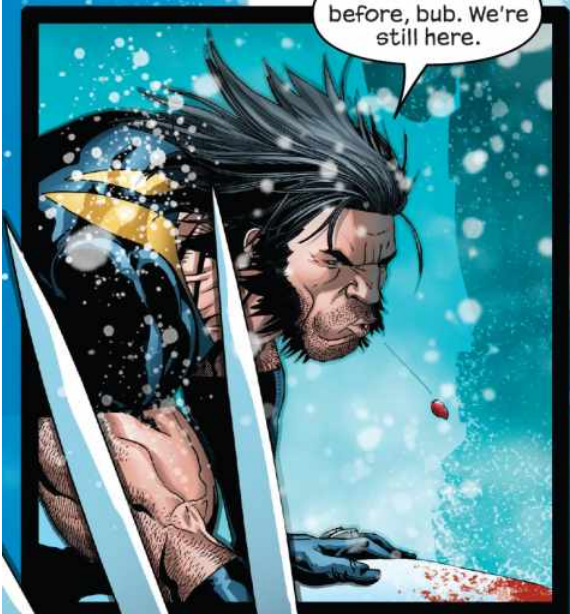
We don' dare waste it. There be too much at stake--fo'



Impressive words, fool--but they come *too late*.

Your precious dream is at its end--

--and with it, your lives!

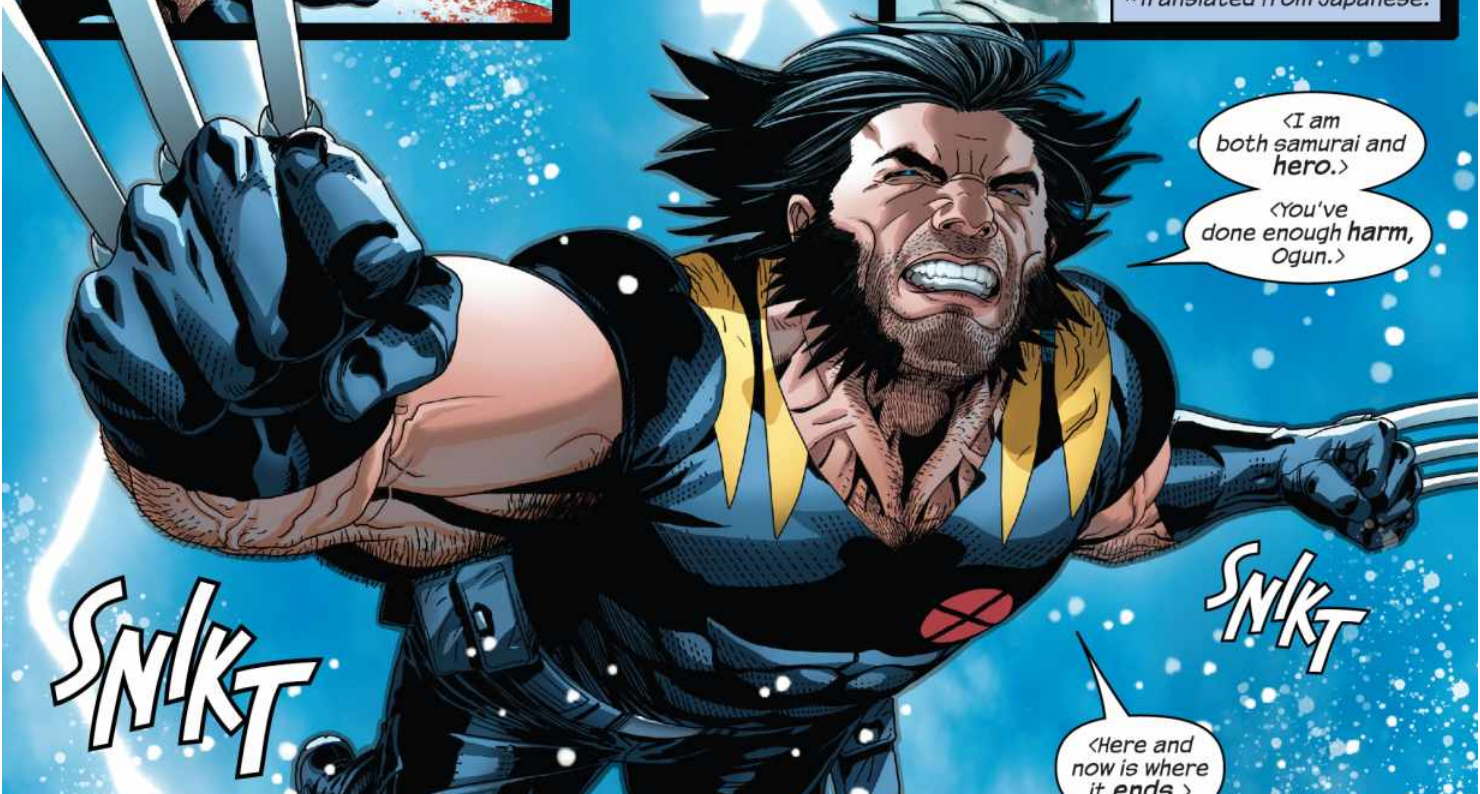


Heard that before, bub. We're still here.



<Do you truly believe you can stop me, Logan?>*

*Translated from Japanese.



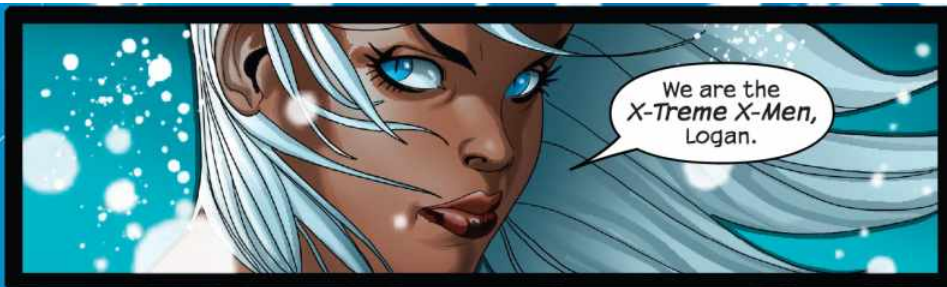
<I am both samurai and hero.>

<You've done enough harm, Ogun.>

SNIKT

SNIKT

<Here and now is where it ends.>





I no longer control the weather, but somehow I sense it--calling out to me in *pain!*

As if my power is being held--*captive!*



Wha's yo' instinct tell ya?

Never steal from a thief--



--for we are sure to take back all that was stolen--with *vengeance.*

So wha'chu waitin' fo'?



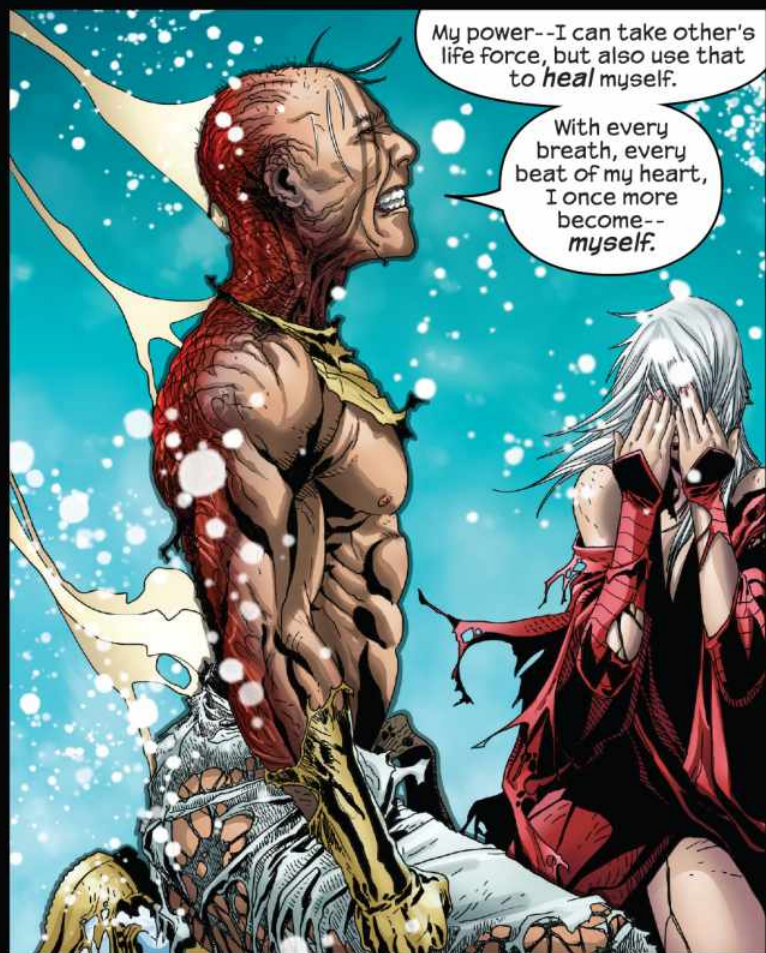
MEANWHILE,
AGAIN

I have never
heard you *scream*
before.

I have
never known such--
pain.

Can you--
function?

Is there
anything I can do
to *help*?



My power--I can take other's
life force, but also use that
to *heal* myself.

With every
breath, every
beat of my heart,
I once more
become--
myself.



If not
for you shielding
me with your body,
I would have
died.

I am
forever pledged to
you, Sanzu.

To
serve is my
honor.



The dragon
will *pay* for what
he's done--this
I *swear*.

Save the
beast for last,
Soulscream. Our
primary objective is
the expulsion of
all mutants--

--starting
with the

And one last time,
back to where this
issue began...

I

am

not

dead!

Not yet...

...not
by a long
shot.

I hope.

I pray.

Phased inside
the boulder--I could
hear what was
happening.

Mutants
losing their powers,
reverting to their
natural form.

Would'a, should'a
died when that
happened, except
my natural form's
to be--

--intangible--

--a living
ghost.

Who holds
herself together--
keeps herself *alive*--
solely by force
of *Will*.

Which means
right now I'm
running totally
on borrowed
time.

So, dragon,
you an' I better
find a way t' set
things *right*--

--b'fore I
fade away so much
I become a ghost
for *real*!

And while we're
at it, make whoever's
responsible...

PAY!

NEXT:



